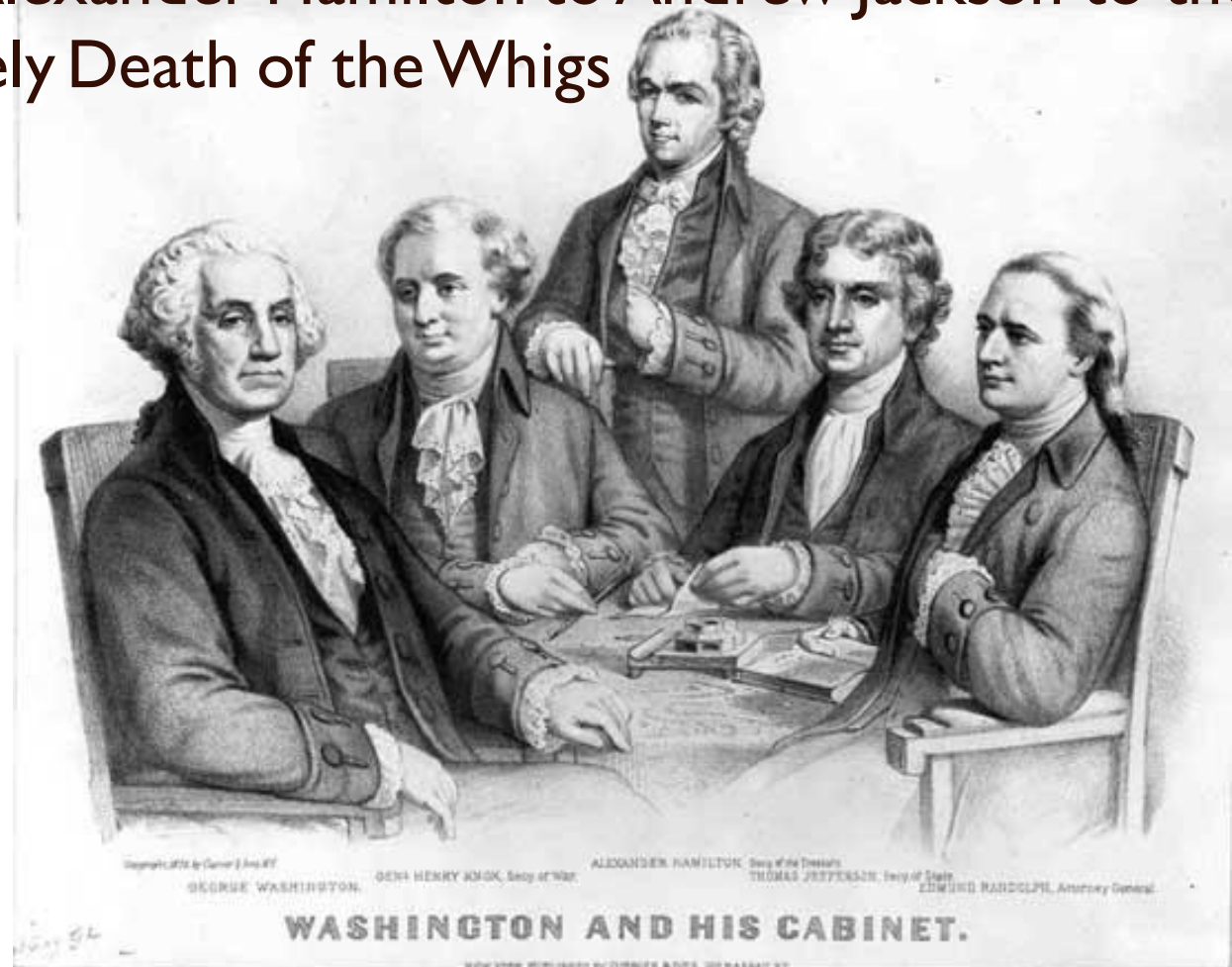


From Jefferson to Jackson: Political Parties Emerge and Change, 1796 - 1850

From Alexander Hamilton to Andrew Jackson to the Untimely Death of the Whigs



Dissenters to George Washington's and John Adams' Administrations

A rift emerged between Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton during the end of Washington's Presidency, and it got worse under President John Adams. Three major issues caused a partisan divide between rivals in the administration.

The Bank of the United States

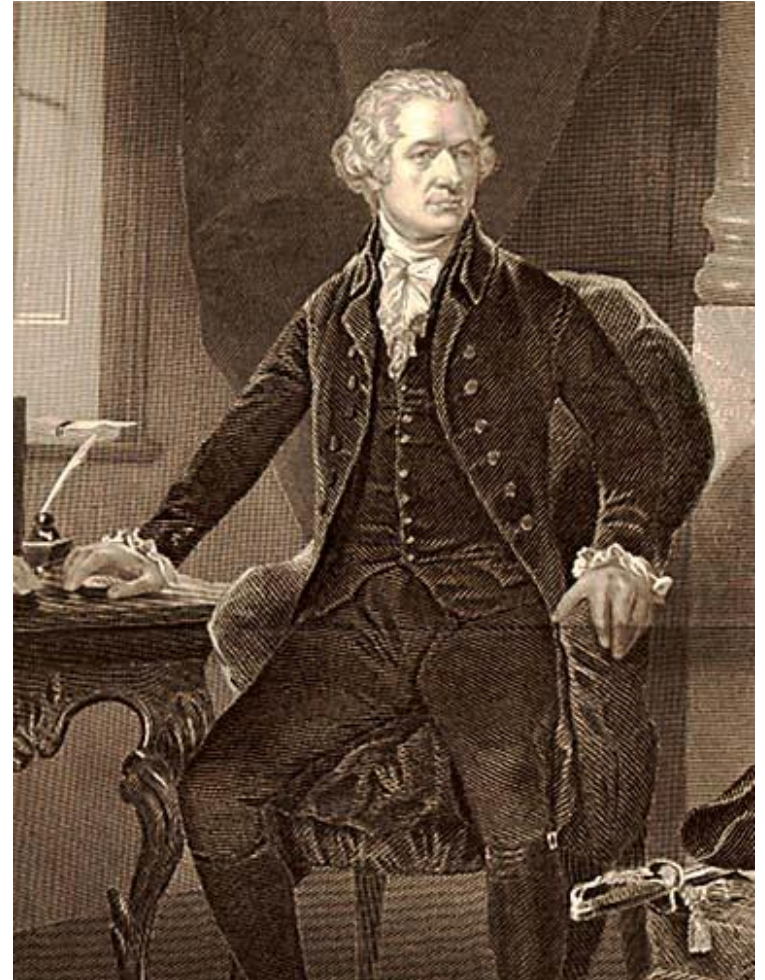
Jay's Treaty

The Quasi-War with France

1. After assuming all of the states' debts, the government empowered the Bank of the United States to set economic policies. Hamilton liked this; Jefferson did not!
2. Jay's Treaty with England was viewed as weak, deferential, and pro-English.
3. During the Quasi-War, some Americans sympathized with France and sought to negotiate with them.

The Federalist Party

The Federalist Party was led by *Alexander Hamilton*. John Adams won the Presidency as a Federalist. They encouraged strong ties with England, not France. They were in favor of a strong national government. They wanted the government to promote both industry and commerce to the greatest degree possible. In general, the Federalists were supported by bankers, businessmen, and the citizens of New England.



The Democratic-Republicans

Thomas Jefferson was the standard bearer for the Democratic-Republicans. His party was pro-France when it came to diplomatic relations. He favored a weaker national government, which left more power to the states. Democratic-Republicans favored agriculture and viewed agrarian interests as most important to the nation. They were supported mostly by small farmers and artisans in the South and on the frontier – in the emerging West.



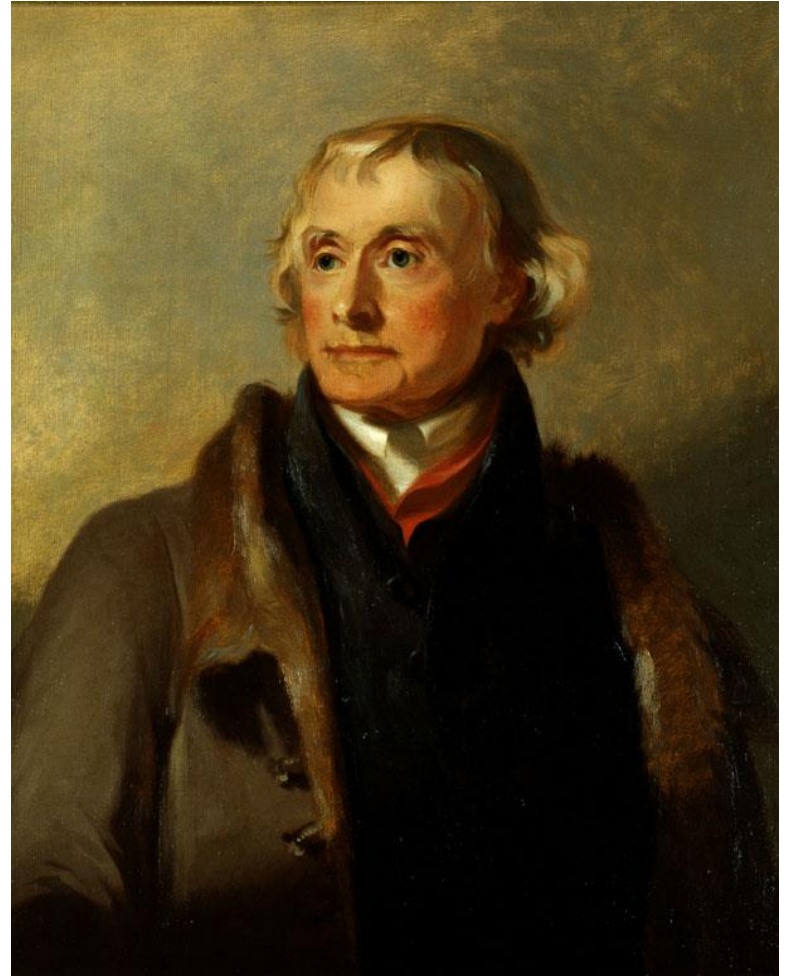
The Election of 1800

- In the Election of 1800, Thomas Jefferson ran against John Adams, who stood for re-election.
- Adams had supported the clearly unconstitutional Alien and Sedition Acts, which violated the First Amendment.
- Thomas Jefferson defeated John Adams, and the first every peaceful transfer of power in American History took place. He was inaugurated in 1801.
- The Election of 1800 was important because Americans had proven that a democratic system of government could work, and that the concept of a “loyal opposition” was possible.

Jefferson's Presidency

During Jefferson's Presidency, a number of important events took place.

- The Louisiana Territory was purchased and explored by the Corps of Discovery.
- The Supreme Court decided the case of Marbury V. Madison, asserting the right of judicial review.
- Several incidents which would lead to the War of 1812 took place, involving the impressment of American soldiers and the harassment of American trade vessels by the British.



The War of 1812

- James Madison was the President during the War of 1812.
- The War of 1812 was caused by British interference with American shipping and trade. The English impressed (kidnapped) our sailors and stole our cargo.
- The British also occupied western forts, and encouraged Indians to attack Americans on the frontier.
- Western “War Hawks” favored the War of 1812 with England; New Englanders tended to oppose the War of 1812.



In general, Democratic-Republicans favored the War of 1812.

Federalists, who favored both England and commerce, would have preferred to negotiate a treaty with the British. This would hurt the Federalist Party by the end of the war.

Federalist Opposition to the War of 1812 – The Hartford Convention

In 1814, New England Federalists met in Hartford, Connecticut to voice their opposition to the War of 1812. The men at the Hartford Convention even considered the possibility of secession in order to end the war in New England. When Americans won the war and gained a huge victory at New Orleans in quick succession, the Hartford Convention – and the Federalist Party – appeared to be treasonous. The political party never recovered.



The Federalist Party died out rather rapidly after the Hartford Convention, since they appeared to be a little too pro King George IV. Alexander Hamilton's murder in 1804 at the hands of Aaron Burr had hurt the progress of the party anyhow. By 1815, they were a regional party with little influence outside of New England.

Victory in the War of 1812

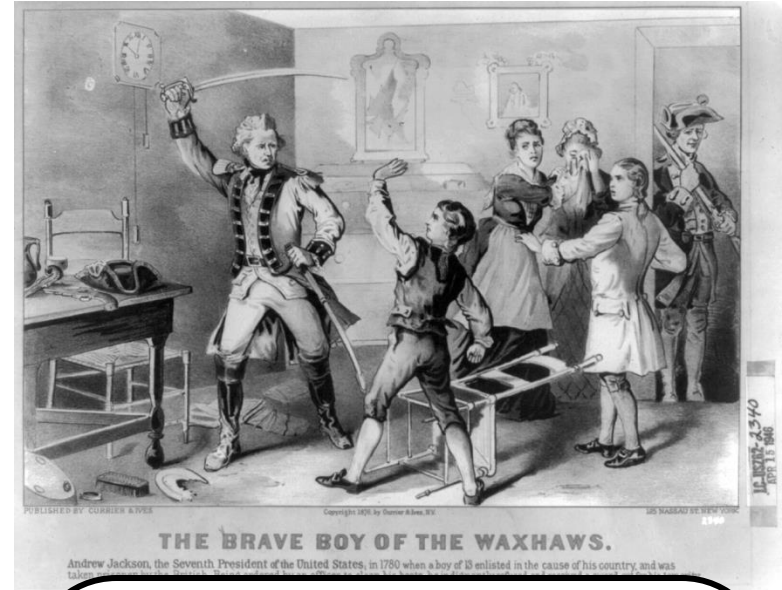
- The United States of America gained greater respect as a world power due to our “victory” over the British in the War of 1812.
- The Federalist Party died out rapidly after the war, because they attempted to undermine the efforts of the nation with the Hartford Convention.
- Andrew Jackson became a hero during the War of 1812, and his influence on American politics would be very important!



The Federalist Party died out due to its opposition to the War of 1812; meanwhile, Andrew Jackson became a hero of the Democratic Party through his military record during the conflict.

Andrew Jackson

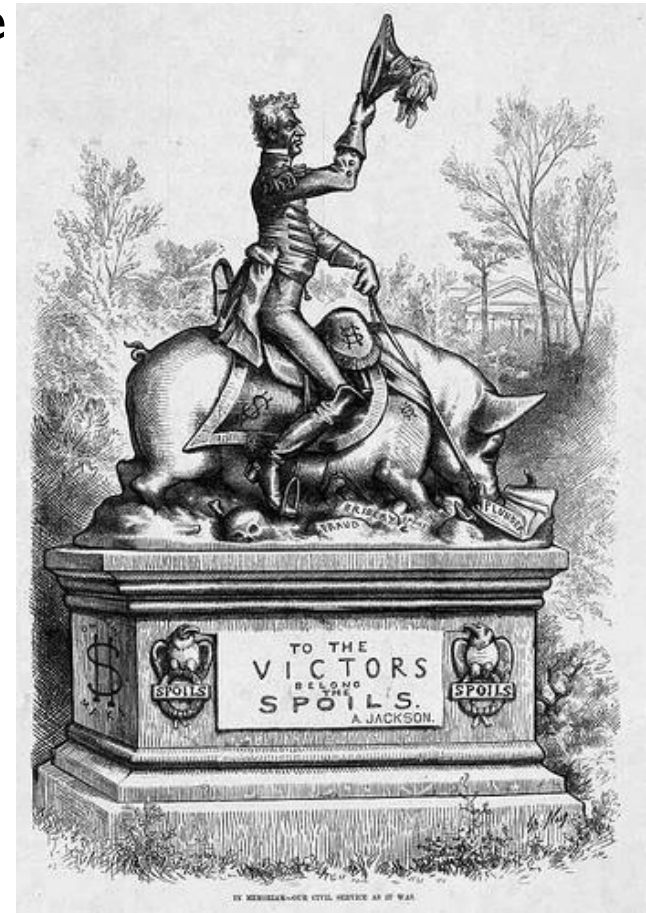
Andrew Jackson would parlay his military victories into political capital. As the hero of the Battle of New Orleans with a storied history that went back to the Revolutionary War, Jackson appealed to the “common man” as no past president ever had. He would change the very nature of participatory democracy in America and bring on a new political party system in the United States.



As a young man, Andrew Jackson had received a beating from a British soldier for refusing to obey his orders during the Revolutionary War. As a military commander, he loathed the British, and gave them what for at the Battle of New Orleans.

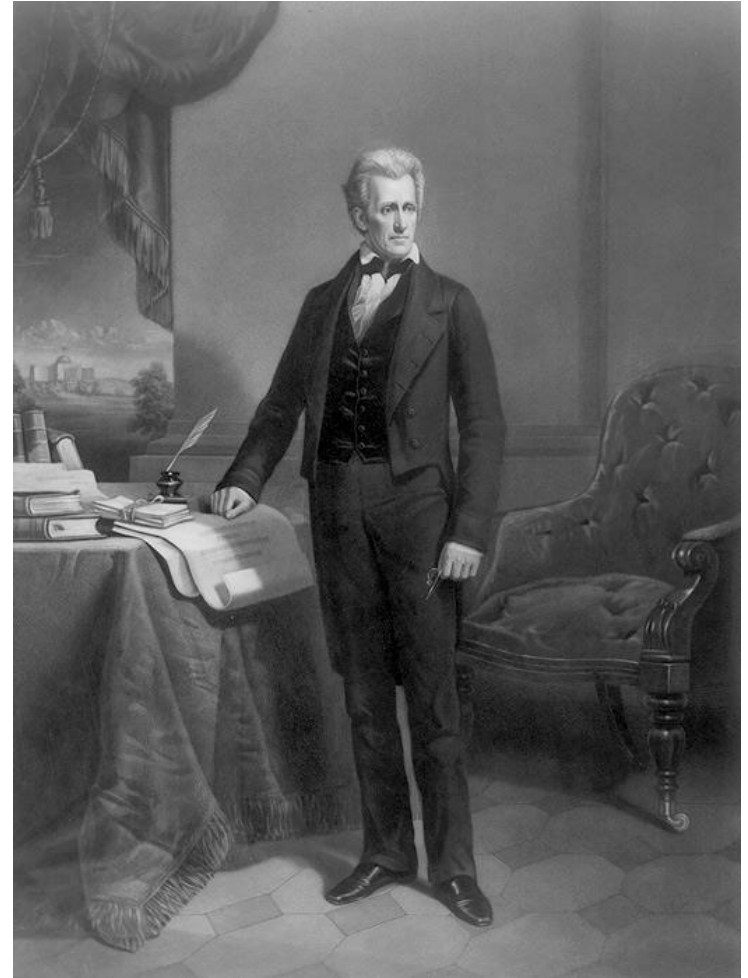
Jacksonian Democracy and the Rise of the Common Man in Democracy

- Andrew Jackson favored “universal white man’s suffrage” – or, the elimination of property requirements to vote. He was championed by the poor for this reason.
- Jackson was openly partisan – he was a Democrat – and he actively campaigned for the Presidency, which no Presidential candidate had ever done before. (He hated John Quincy Adams and the Whig Henry Clay, who had stolen the Presidency from him in 1824 through what he called “The Corrupt Bargain.”)
- Jackson also rewarded his supporters with government jobs whenever he could, believing that “to the victor goes the spoils.” The “Spoils System” was a very controversial way to hand out government jobs.



The “Common” Man VS. The “Elite”

Jackson fashioned himself as the friend of the common man, and ran his Presidency as the people's representative. He hated the National Bank, for example, which he considered a tool of the wealthiest men in America. If poor, white men favored something, President Andrew Jackson tended to favor that principle to, even if it would do damage to groups like Indians or the elite bankers and industrialists of New England.



The Cherokee Removal and the Trail of Tears



Andrew Jackson was responsible for the removal of the Cherokee Tribe from Georgia. In typical fashion, he favored the interests of poor white men over anyone else in society. Even though the Supreme Court ruled that the Cherokee should be allowed to stay in Northern Georgia in their historical homelands, Jackson would not uphold the ruling.

The Whig Opposition

The Whig Party hated Andrew Jackson, for a variety of reasons. First of all, Andrew Jackson hated and eventually destroyed their beloved Bank of the United States. They also opposed his frequent use of the veto over their legislation. While the Whig Party wanted to build bridges, railroads and canals to unify the nation with “internal improvements,” Jackson opposed them with the veto. Worse yet, although a strong nationalist leader personally, Jackson allowed sectionalism to persist and grow worse under his watch.



The Woman's Movement

- Under Andrew Jackson, more and more “common men” were allowed to participate in democratic elections. As property requirements were dropped, more men became eligible to vote.
- Women, too, began to advocate for suffrage rights during the 1840s. Having gained political voices in the Abolitionist movement against slavery, many women sought to more actively participate in government.

The Seneca Falls Convention of 1848

- Held in New York in 1848, the Seneca Falls Convention was organized by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott in 1848.
- This was the first time in American history that a group of women had ever formally advocated for the right to vote. Stanton wrote the Declaration of Sentiments in 1848, and in the document, she demanded that women receive suffrage rights.
- Susan B. Anthony was another major voice in the cause for woman's suffrage.

